

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Monday, April 20, 1970

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're now dealing with the Department of Government Services. The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, actually this is the first time that the estimates for what is now known as the Department of Government Services have ever been debated in this House. It's rather interesting to make that observation, because while there has been some changes the actual Act has not been changed, and of course the old designation was the Department of Public Works. But the department now is commonly known as the Department of Government Services and I think that it would only be appropriate for me at this stage to mention the various sections of the Department of Government Services.

But before doing so I feel that it is incumbent upon myself as the Minister of this department to pay a tribute to all of the members of the civil service who work for the citizens of this great province of ours. I had the opportunity a few weeks ago when we considered the estimates of the Department of Labour, as the Minister of that department to pay a tribute to the civil servants in the Department of Labour. I now have an opportunity as the Minister of Government Services and in charge of the Civil Service Commission to pay a tribute to all of the employees that work on behalf of all of the departments and on behalf of the people of the province. I think that it is fitting for me to indicate that in my opinion the citizens of Manitoba are well served by the civil service. I recognize when I say this that from time to time there is criticism respecting individuals and that we cannot satisfy all, but I do recommend to the members of this House and to the citizens of Manitoba that they are well served by the civil service of the Province of Manitoba, many who are not paid as well as they might be if they were in some other segment of human endeavour and industry, and many I would say, Mr. Chairman, who could conceivably move to other climes but they're so devoted to this their province that they fulfill their obligations and their duties to the satisfaction and to the benefit of all of the citizens of Manitoba.

The Department of Government Services is that section of the government which deals with inplant basis of operations and suppliers of manpower and materials required by all other departments of the Government of Manitoba. The various branches of the department are in reality service branches whose activities and responsibilities are determined largely by the needs of the other departments of government.

One of the departments, the Architects Branch of the Department of Government Services has the responsibility for construction and allocation of space requirement and the maintenance of government buildings across the province from Emerson to Churchill and all other areas in between. During the year the Design Section supervised and awarded some 22 projects totalling approximately \$18,300,000. Various renovations and maintenance work were carried out by departmental personnel in the provincially-owned buildings and institutions. Studies are being undertaken at the present time to determine more extensive use of multiple purpose buildings for government offices in Manitoba centres. At the present time a review is being made to see whether or not instead of the building of institutions or complexes for individual departments, that multiple use can be made of the various buildings, a study I may say, Mr. Chairman, that extends even into the area of school construction, so that instead of building uni-purpose buildings in Manitoba, that in our various areas in school construction that we might build buildings that would have other uses as well so that the building would be more economically built for the use of all of the people of the province instead of just for specific purposes.

The Land Acquisition Branch, another section of the Department of Government Services, appraises and acquires property required for a variety of uses by the different government departments. Last year property was acquired for such diverse projects as the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, reforestation and other needs. Transactions covered over 13,900 acres of land and involved about 1,201 agreements being reached.

Another area of the Department of Government Services deals with the question of purchasing of the various materials required by departments of government. I might say that the Bureau, the Purchasing Bureau is not responsible for materials requested by the Queen's Printer, the Library, the Textbook Bureau or the Telephone System or the Commission. But I do, Mr. Chairman, want to indicate that surveys are being made at the present time to see whether or not we might be able to bring into one organization, or one unit, the purchasing of all of the supplies for all of the commissions and departments under the general direction of the Government of

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.) Manitoba so that we will be able to take advantage of bulk purchases throughout all of the activities of government service, be they commissions or be they a department within the government.

The Queen's Printer's office is responsible for the supply of all printed material required by the various departments and includes stationery, publications, advertising and so on. The Machine Services Branch of the Queen's Printer Department provides and services general office machines used in government services, and if after our assessment is made insofar as the commissions are concerned and a decision is reached, the Machine Services Branch would be extended to even include those of the commissions.

The Attorney-General at the opening day of the House, Mr. Chairman, you will recall, made reference to the revision of the statutes. I just simply repeat that the Queen's Printer has just completed a revision of the statutes in loose leaf form and the computerization of the statutes. Both activities represent a major first in technique for the continuous consolidation and revision of the statutes. Computer techniques have also been applied to the printing of bills being introduced in this session of the Legislature. Some members will recall, Mr. Chairman, that a start was made during the last session with two or three bills or three or four bills, and we're now doing that I think with all of the bills that we will be dealing with at this session.

Another arm of the Department of Government Services is that of the Central Provincial Garage which has the responsibility for servicing and repairing the province-owned vehicle fleet which includes automobiles, station wagons and light trucks, representing in total 1,463 units. In addition, the Central Provincial Garage services and maintains more than 500 items of other equipment owned and used by the different departments.

One of the main responsibilities of the Department of Government Services is that of the Civil Service Commission which is responsible for the recruitment and placement of the personnel in an industry which employs about 7,500 people. During the last year the Civil Service Commission conducted over 400 competitive examinations; more than 1,500 individuals wrote clerical, typing, stenographic examinations throughout the province. The Commission also acts as an appeal body on matters of employment within the government. Then of course within the department of the Civil Service comes the responsibility for the administration of the pension plan for the civil servants in the government service, for the employees of the various departments and of some of its agencies.

Another branch of the Department of Government Services is that of the Informational Services Branch. This branch is charged with the responsibility of preparing and distributing factual information about the programs, policies and activities of the Provincial Government, and of course of its departments and its Boards and Commissions. As well, it provides detailed information on aspects of Manitoba's growth and development for financial and technical publications, consulates, encyclopedias, school textbooks, and research for industrial development branches of the various organizations.

Mr. Chairman, this is but a brief outline of the activities of the Department of Government Services. So far as dollar expenditures are concerned, it is rather low on the totem pole dollar-wise but exercises a wide influence and direction for the citizens of the Province of Manitoba.

Now I do know - I want to draw to the attention of my honourable friends that there is a peculiar situation prevailing today insofar as the Minister of Government Services is concerned. I had an occasion a few years ago to reduce the salary, or at least propose a reduction in the salary of one of the Ministers of one of the Ministries - I believe to 98, 97 or 98 cents. That can't happen this evening, Mr. Chairman, because if you take a look at the estimates you will find that there is no provision at all for the Minister of Government Services. I'm happy. I'm happy as one who is interested in the forward thrust in Manitoba, to gratuitously render my services as Minister of Government Services without compensation, without any salary being attached to the government.

So Mr. Chairman, . . . -- (Interjection) -- Pardon?

MR. WEIR: You're being paid just what you're worth.

MR. PAULLEY: That's right; that's right. And I might say to my honourable friend, I realize and I recognize I'm being paid for what I'm worth; some are being overpaid. I will not indicate who I mean at all but if my honourable friend would reflect just for a moment or two, I'm sure that he would come to the same conclusion and agreement between each of us as to who I mean.

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, I recommend these estimates for consideration of the

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.). . . . Committee, and may I finish off where I started and recognize and pay a tribute to all of those that are rendering service to the people of Manitoba. I think that it would be wrong for me to sit down at this moment if I did not pay tribute to many who contribute of their services far beyond the normal call of duty. I have found, and particularly within some of the departments, the Architect's Department, Purchasing Department, the likes of that, many are here all hours of the night, drafting, drawing plans for buildings and the likes of that, really go beyond what we would normally expect. So I would pay, Mr. Chairman, a good tribute to all of those civil service personnel who work for the people of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, in taking the assignment on for this party I too found that this was the first time that this item was on a separate cover and being debated as an item separately and I take pleasure in complimenting the Minister in taking on his task for free. They don't do it very often for free these days but we do congratulate him on that.

I was most interested in his commentary in which he endeavoured to explain the services of the department, all the way down the line. We too, would like to associate ourselves in paying tribute to the Civil Service of Manitoba. We too feel that they have done a tremendous job and will continue to do a tremendous job in the interests of the people. My mind just goes to those civil servants that were superannuated many many years ago and whose input from the Fund would possibly not be enough to live on in these days of rise in costs and I hope the Minister in his wisdom will consider these factors as time goes along. Those people served and served well and I believe if anything can be done to improve their lot in their twilight years, it would be well worth while.

I notice, Mr. Minister that the appropriation for the department is in excess of - or at least a million dollars more than last year and that in several instances there seems to be quite an extensive forward thrust, I believe I heard him say; and I particularly notice that under the Post Office Department that postage is up \$100,000. Now maybe that's a real forward thrust, particularly as I see that the public information services are up a little too. I have no fault to find with the Public Information Service, but I do remember when the Honourable Minister was on this side and these colleagues, if they'd have had their way, they would have dug a hole and thrown it in, but I would suggest in what has gone on in the last ten months that we never dreamt of doing what's coming out of there today. But nevertheless, it's a good service and as a newspaperman, I know the material from time to time, particularly to do with agriculture, is very informative and very worth while.

I notice too that with the provincial garage that's up over half a million dollars, and I'd like the Minister to tell us whether or not he's going to increase the fleet or increase the size of the garage. Probably he could give us a little detail as to what we can look for there. I'd like him to tell us a little bit more about the Civic Auditorium as to, not necessarily how it came about, it's pretty obvious, but there has been many questions over the weeks in this regard and I hope the Minister will take the opportunity and inform the House just exactly how the price was arrived at, and in particular the million and a half that it's going to take to renovate that building.

I notice too in the sheet of paper that the Minister of Finance gave us today, that the Minister is going to be responsible for a good many other things. And probably he could give us an explanation on government service buildings - the amount of a million dollars that is listed there. I too, have not a great deal more to say. I take off my hat to the Minister. He's quite capable of travelling through the various items in the estimates and I am sure he will give us the answers.

Whilst I'm on my feet though I would like to mention that the members accommodation is nowhere near what it ought to be. I know we heard the complaint from this side; now it's our purpose to complain back again. We in our group with 22 members, we find it rather difficult to do the job that we have to do with the limited space that we have, and I would hope the Minister would probably take that under consideration and see what he could do about it.

Another thing that's very close to my heart too, is I sometimes see our public buildings flying a flag, the national flag, which is right and proper, but I personally would like to see the Manitoba flag flown from our public buildings and, of course, when we're celebrating something Dominion-wise, well of course, the obvious thing is that the Canadian flag should be flown on that occasion. I notice around the province too at our public buildings that rarely do we see a Manitoba flag flying. I think that it has its place and I think it should be honoured in the proper

(MR. BILTON cont'd.). . . . manner. And I notice too, in attending the odd court room - just as a visitor I might say - that the proper adornment by way of flags or a picture of the Queen are in some instances missing; and I would ask the Minister if there is any reason for this or any order given that they should be disposed of. If so, I'd like to know the reason why. So. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: if my friend would just repeat his last remarks. I was talking to a colleague about something I'm sure he'll be interested in - I didn't quite catch his point.

MR. BILTON: I was merely talking about some of our court rooms that I've visited around the province, as a visitor, and I have found that they have not been adorned with the accustomed flags and the picture of the Queen or the photograph of the Queen, and if there's some reason for that having been removed, or any orders given, I would like to hear a little bit more about it. So with those few words, Mr. Chairman, I wish the Minister well and let's get on with the job.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. -- (Interjection) -- I'm prepared to sit down if there's a spokesman of the Liberal Party that wishes to take my place.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I wish not to disturb the tranquility of the House tonight that was first of all established by the Honourable Minister and I must say carried forward by my colleague the Member for Swan River. My purpose in rising tonight is not to - not to as I said disturb this tranquility but to point out to the Minister and to the House something that came to my attention just in scanning the estimates before us. Namely, that it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that even a very layman's scan of these estimates puts a question mark in the minds of many that would scan these estimates about the rather amazing sums that have been slipped in to this department and into these estimates under the various sundry headings of postage, other expenditures ta-da-de-da, ta-da-de-da.

Let me begin. On Resolution No. 1 (b) (3), we have the item of postage - the previous year \$445,000, this year \$544,000.00. Mr. Chairman, there have been some suggestions that members opposite have been somewhat indiscreet in the use of their franking privileges with respect to, you know the proper use of them, but I wish to make no accusations. I merely want to point out that there is in this relatively small department a one hundred thousand dollar increase in the use of postage. Now I know, and I'd like to if there were more Liberal friends here, I could make a forty minute speech about how in such a short period of time so much has been done by one person to louse up the postal service in this country as by the Honourable Minister of Postal Services - and I'm referring to the Honourable Eric Kierans -- you know in such a short time, you know that could be a speech in itself but -- (Interjection) -- No, I don't want to get on to that subject, it could be a speech in itself. You see, Mr. Chairman, I'd be falling into the trap that we Conservatives and Liberals have been falling into all along; we fight each other and we forget about these fellows and they just slip in and take over the show. So before I let my honourable friend the Minister of Government Services off the hook because of this apparently -- apparently tremendous rise here of one hundred thousand dollars in postal services in this department -- (Interjection) -- Yes, postage. I wish to draw your attention to it, Mr. Chairman, because I know that you are a fair and equitable and honourable man and that you yourself, you yourself, would want to take it upon yourself to make certain, you know investigate certain investigations as to the abnormal rise in the increase in postage in this department.

Then we come to such other indications where under the somewhat you know, naive heading of "Other Expenditures" we have a figure in Resolution 2 (b), and it's listed "Other expenditures" \$1,642,000 plus, to \$1,744,000 - another hundred thousand dollar rise simply put in as "other expenditures". Now the Minister didn't give us any great explanation as to rise in staff or increased services, but I again point out to your attention, Mr. Chairman, because I know you'll want to be aware of these things, that there is again another hundred thousand dollars there.

Then we come to another little figure "Wages of Employees Hired by Day or Hour". Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to be the first one to acknowledge that this government surely would not be prone to any kind of criticism that perhaps any other government isn't prone to from time to time of, you know of using this particular avenue to provide that needy constituent with a job, to provide that needy daughter with a job or to provide that needy son with a job, or what have you; but I just point out again that here we have -- (Interjection) -- here we have a figure "Wages of Employees Hired by Day or Hour" so I must assume these are not established civil servant

(MR. ENNS cont'd.). . . . positions, you know these are not the kind of positions that go through the regular norm of the civil service, you know for job applications; but last year \$159,000 was spent; this year this government is intending to spend \$261,700.00. Somebody, somebody, I don't know who it is, perhaps the Member from Birtle-Russel pencilled in there propaganda or something like that but that's his parochial rule of thinking. I reject it, I reject it, Mr. Chairman.

Now on another page, coming to page -- again one of these -- you know -- and this is what's drawn my attention -- Mr. Chairman, believe me I didn't really want to speak to this at all because you know my forte is in other fields as you I'm sure, will appreciate, and I had no intention to speak to these matters, but it was this sneaky kind of "other expenditures" that's listed here that kept drawing my attention to it. And on Resolution No. 5, page 2 of your estimate before you, we have again, under the Queen's Printer, under the Queen's Printer, Resolution 5 (b) (2), last year \$636,560; this year \$787,000 - another full hundred thousand dollars plus increase. There's another full hundred thousand dollar increase.

Then we come down to of course item 11, Public Information Services, and you know, Mr. Chairman, really to make this speech I shouldn't be sitting here at all, I should be in the honourable seat of my colleague, the Member from Swan River, because nobody made that speech more eloquently and more frequently than the former Member from Gladstone -- the present Member for Gladstone -- who used to have the ability of pulling up all the old files, all the green papers that the Department of Agriculture used to set out. Then when my colleague, who is not now presently in his seat, but I must say his seat is amply filled at the moment, the Member from River Heights, took over the Department of Information Services, it was very quickly dubbed as the propaganda department and the colours turned to blue -- and those fellows haven't changed that colour yet, they like that colour -- but when that department took over it was very quickly dubbed as the propaganda department - and oh how evil it was, how evil it was. Well, Mr. Chairman, let me tell you how evil it was. That we had the audacity, when we were in administration we had the audacity, Mr. Chairman, of spending \$108,000 on that department, that department of propaganda, and this government is only going to spend \$126,000 in that department.

MR. PAULLEY: How about other expenditures.

MR. ENNS: Well other expenditures - yes, let me come to other expenditures, let me come to other expenditures, that also caught my eye. Other expenditures - last year we spent \$40,250; this year they're spending \$39,000. So there's a plus for the other side. Mr. Chairman, what it adds up to and -- Mr. Chairman, it grieves me that I -- because I attempt to leave the House in this Passover season with a degree of entertainment from time to time that the members opposite do not take me seriously -- and it bothers me that -- well perhaps maybe somebody is. But in these relatively small areas we're looking at close to \$400,000 or close to half a million dollars of "other expenditures", Mr. Chairman -- half a million dollars, or close to it, that have just kind of been slipped into. . .

Mr. Chairman, you know I had the pleasure of responding to the same Minister when he introduced as Minister of Labour his estimates, and if I recall correctly and Hansard will prove me correctly, I had reasonably nice things to say about that honourable gentleman on that occasion. And I believed them, every word that I said, but that does not for one minute change my opinion of the syrupy smoothness, the slipperiness of my friend opposite, the deceit that he is capable of practising and -- (Interjection) -- Order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think my honourable friend should be careful of some of the words that he applies to the honourable gentleman.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wish not to break any parliamentary rules. I'm simply suggesting that tonight the Honourable Minister stood up and knowing that he had a relatively non-controversial, non-controversial departmental estimates to present to the House, and that he could simply talk about the nice bunch of fellows that work for the people of Manitoba in this building -- and of course they're all nice fellows, they're all nice fellows, certainly. And about the general situation on the grounds and so forth; fine, nice fellows. But, Mr. Chairman, in so doing I only rose for one purpose to indicate to you and to the House that he's also slipped in a half a million dollars of the taxpayer of Manitoba's people -- the taxpayers' monies of the people of Manitoba -- (Interjection) -- that was difficult -- with very little explanation, in fact with no explanation, and Mr. Chairman, much more seriously is the very real concern that I have that within this kind of a department, you know half a million dollars can go a long way in influencing friends and you know - winning friends and influencing people.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Ask Vera.

MR. ENNS: So, Mr. Chairman, I apologize for taking up the time of the committee at this particular time but I wanted to simply, while I was on the Minister's salary, to kind of go through these innocent sounding other expenditures, postage, other expenditures. Mr. Chairman, it's noteworthy that it's only in these areas, primarily, of "Other Expenditures" where the increases occur, where the increases occur, and they amount to a sizeable amount of money out of a budget of this size. Mr. Chairman, it is one that should cause us all concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, it will be a pretty difficult act to follow but I must say that the Honourable Member for Lakeside has a pretty good eye because he was able to discover that the government in a sneaky way, he said, added some million point three to its estimates this year and the Minister has not explained what the reasons were for.

But I would at this time like to raise just a few points that I would like to hear the Minister explain, and one of course the purchase of the Auditorium which we were told was purchased for a million dollars and renovation and rehabilitation of that building will be in the neighbourhood of one and a half or two million dollars, somewhere in that area; so there's a total cost that I would assume would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$3 million, perhaps even more before the government can utilize that building. I would like to know if the government did really have some proper appraisals made of the land and the building and perhaps we could have built a new building for that kind of money if we are talking three to three and a half million. On the other hand, I know some people are saying that the City of Winnipeg did not receive a good deal because one million dollars wasn't enough, and of course the other group are saying as well it perhaps was not a good investment because we would have had a new office building if we take into consideration the total cost of renovation of that building which will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3 to 3 1/2 million dollars and maybe more, so I would like to know if there has been proper land and proper appraisals made on the present structure as it is and in view of renovating.

The other point that has been touched on lightly, I know that when the members of the government were on this side of the House they also said the same thing as some of our members and one in particular who was very strong in respect to the Public Information Services, I think that probably this has some purpose but I would like to know who receives the information; how many copies are mailed each month and who does it go to? I think it would be of interest to most members on this side to know, because I know for the time since I came to this House I believe we did not have this type of information, who receives, how many copies are printed and besides probably the news media who else receives this information?

One point that has concerned me for quite some time, Mr. Chairman, and that is the front of our buildings, the Legislative Building here. I think this is the most beautiful building in the province, perhaps in almost the whole of Canada. It has a beautiful park in front of the building and it seems to me that the front in the last while, particularly I'd say in the last two sessions of this House, the front has become a car parking lot instead of what it should be and what it should serve really. I think there are some people who have to come to these buildings and have perhaps some important business to do, and even myself as a member I have to ride 3 or 4 times around the block before I find a place to park because even somebody parks in the members. But my argument isn't because somebody parked in the members parking lot or parking stall itself, but I don't think in front of the building and all the way around every day we should have a congestion of cars and have the front of the buildings become a car park. I think it distracts the scenery, distracts something from this building if we continue to do this. I don't know who parks, maybe a lot of people have a lot of important business to do, but if it means a shortage of staff perhaps the government should investigate and see what could be done in respect to parking, but I feel that the front of the buildings particularly should not be used as a parking lot.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, there has been a considerable amount of carpentry and hammering and noise going on in the building itself here. I don't know if the Minister explained or not, I was about five minutes late, but perhaps we should know what renovations are presently taking place in the buildings here. Is there air conditioning being installed or what changes are made and what the renovations are for. I know that in the front we used to have a Tourist Information Bureau or a Tourist Information Office which I think has served a pretty good purpose. With the amount of visitors that we get to these buildings it perhaps is

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.), . . . worthwhile to have a Tourist Information Bureau. Will this still continue in these buildings or will it now be completely moved out? In my own opinion I think that information for many of our tourists, since these buildings attract so many people, is a worthwhile thing. Maybe not any large office but even if it's a small little office I think it serves a purpose. But I know extensive work has been going on in that office and I was just wondering if it will still be there or has it been changed and will not be there any more?

The other point I wish to raise is perhaps the government can tell us, how many buildings do we own at the present time and how much office space do we rent. My concern would be, it may be more reasonable to rent office space at the present time or is it more reasonable to own it. Is the government contemplating purchasing any more space. There has been some rumour that Great West Life may be either moving down town into centre core or perhaps leaving the province, and I hope this is not the case, but is there any negotiation going on at the present time in this respect because there was some serious consideration given that Great West may build a high rise right down town close to the corner of Portage and Main?

Mr. Chairman, I think that the Member for Lakeside did raise a real good point in respect to the increase in the postage which is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$100,000. It seems to me that this is a drastic increase in a matter of one year or one estimate. You can lick a lot of stamps for \$100,000 and I would like to know what is the reason and why such a great -- in fact its almost an exorbitant increase in postage alone, so either the government is going to mail many more Information Service Bulletins to many more people or probably start some other type of propaganda machine I don't know, but I would like to know.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to raise is the question in respect to the Workmen's Compensation assessment in respect to government employees. The last estimates show that assessments were ninety thousand and this year they are one hundred and thirty-six, which is again a very large increase and perhaps the Minister can give us the benefit and explain just the reason for this.

These are a few of the points that I wish to raise at the present time and hope that the Minister can give us some more information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, until the Minister decided to take some credit for the printing of the legislation that we've been getting at this session I really hadn't intended to bring this matter up at this point. I'm glad to see the House Leader coming back because I think it is probably more oriented to him than it is to my honourable friend the old rooster that was House Leader last year. The point that I wanted to make in terms of the printing of the legislation -- and I might just point out that we are now just about halfway into our sixth week of the session and I make the point at the time when I think that outside of the standard money bills that we've had about thirteen government bills presented to us in six weeks, none of them being very consequential but in many of them, one or two, I noticed the fact that the people responsible for the drafting of them have taken the trouble to put an explanation on the other side of the page, but the majority of them, notwithstanding the fact that they're amendments contain the amendments only and I think that time could be saved in two ways, one for the members of the House, in tracing back through on many occasions quite a number of statutes to find out what the content of the legislation is; and for those who might not take the trouble to trace back into the statutes, when it comes to second reading and asking questions back and forth with the Minister, that maybe some time of the House could be saved if an explanation found its way into the bill as to what the purport of the amendments contained within the bill were.

Now I recall having suggested this last year, I can recall having had it suggested by members on this side when I sat on that side, and I know attempts were made at that time and Mr. Chairman, all I'm suggesting is that the government attempt through the staff that they have, at the time bills are being drafted and before they go to printers, to use the blank sides of the page or empty space some place to attempt in laymen's language to set out the purport of the amendment to (a) save the members of the House some time and (b) maybe save some time in the discussion that takes place in the Chamber in seeking out explanations that might not otherwise be necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAULLEY: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I do want to thank my honourable friends -- and I'm very, very sorry that one of the critics opposite seemed to have said his piece, challenged the Minister of Government Services and then flew the coop. We've been talking about

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.). . . . roosters around here for some considerable period of time and it appears as though the little hen from Lakeside has attempted to lay an egg and leave it unhatched and run away. I do trust and hope that. . . .

MR. WEIR: He figured he'd be back long before you're finished, Russ.

MR. PAULLEY: Well I certainly hope that he will be back - and here he is now. Unless my honourable friend receives a misinterpretation of what I just said, I made reference to the fact that the hen from Lakeside had laid an egg and then flew the coop. And you know what happens to an egg that's left after the hen goes away from the coop and the little old rooster. . . .

MR. ENNS: It almost seems there's a rooster been at that hen.

MR. PAULLEY: That's right, that's right. This is an old tradition that the roosters do sometimes get after hens and I think this is the time for the little red rooster, that he has ample opportunity to get after the fleeing hen and maybe the syrup won't be as sweet when I pay some attention to the remarks of my honourable friend from Lakeside.

But I do want to say a word or two -- (Interjection) -- yes I'm sure that you chaps opposite would love to have this passed after you've had a little bit of an inning but I think that it is only fitting and proper. . . .

MR. WEIR: What do you mean, you had the first 20 minutes.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . that some of the irresponsible comments that have been made from the other side of the House in respect to this department should be answered. I want to say to my honourable friend from Swan River who was a very reasonable individual in his criticisms or in his remarks, -- (Interjection) -- no, no we'll get rid of you at the next election.

MR. ENNS: Do you want me to leave?

MR. PAULLEY: No, no, we'll have to tolerate you until the next general election and then after that like the Arabs, your tent will be folded and you'll no longer be around.

MR. ENNS: You mean I'm going to the Senate?

MR. PAULLEY: It all depends what you consider a Senate. We may have a different interpretation of what a Senate really is and it may be that you will be going somewhere else and I guess it would be unparliamentary for me to suggest where that is. However, back to the Department of Government Services. I want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Swan River, I appreciate his rational criticism of the department. I don't care what anybody says about its Minister but I do want to say to my honourable friend, he raised the question of pension increases, I anticipate, I anticipate that before the session is finished that I will be able to announce increases in respect of past pensions, something that I fought for over all of the years that I sat opposite and that the government of the day ignored or did not take any action. So I want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Swan River, and I cannot disclose the extent of the increases or the changes, but I want to say to my honourable friend that I think that there will be an announcement made that will be to the satisfaction of my honourable friend the Member for Swan River.

MR. SHERMAN: What'll it do for the rest of us, Russ?

MR. PAULLEY: Pardon?

MR. SHERMAN: What will it do for the rest of us?

MR. PAULLEY: Well if I have my way, some of you will receive decreases in order that the old age pensioners can get more.

MR. WEIR: Is the money in the estimates?

MR. PAULLEY: I will reveal that at the appropriate time.

MR. WEIR: Now is the time, now is the time when we've got the estimates in front of us.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh no, because my honourable friend, my honourable friend the House Leader who I believe, Mr. Chairman, at one time was the Premier of Manitoba, should know that the matters pertaining to Civil Service superannuation are not an item of debate in the estimates. The Act itself is, or the Fund itself is, but not, not in respect of past services and the likes of that, so my honourable friend I'm sure is aware of this.

Now then, we come down to this very interesting question of increases in the Post Office. I'm sure that my friend from Swan River is well aware as to why there is increases in the appropriation for postal services. I'll tell you. Because we have a government at Ottawa. . . .

MR. ENNS: I said that.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, you said something else though and I'm coming to you in a minute, my honourable friend. I'm coming to you in respect of postal expenses in a little minute.

MR. ENNS: Give me a minute. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: And I want an apology from you. . . .

MR. ENNS: Give me a minute's warning and I'll. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: . . . after the inference of what you said. But my honourable friend from Swan River made reference to the increases insofar as postage is concerned, and I'm sure that he, being a man in business, realizes the increases in the cost in all avenues of postage use, and that is largely the reasons for the increase in the estimates we have before us - not, not because of any material increase in mailing of publications and normal mailing, but because of the increased costs imposed upon the Government of Manitoba and the citizens of Canada by the administration that holds sway at Ottawa through a fellow I believe by the name of the Honourable Eric Kierans, and there's lots of troubles with him, I understand, particularly in places like Montreal and like that. We haven't had too much trouble here. . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Red herring.

MR. PAULLEY: It's not a red herring; it's a cost to the taxpayer of Manitoba and my honourable friend knows it, and I would suggest, I would suggest to my friend the House Leader of the Liberal Party, that he does not, he should not at least attempt to defend his fellow travellers at Ottawa in this case.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: No, no, Montreal.

MR. PAULLEY: But I want to say this, now I'm discussing the matter of the Post Office insofar as my honourable friend from Lakeside. I regret, and I resent very very much the imputation of my honourable friend from Lakeside that any increase in the appropriation for the Post Office is the result of the use of the Post Office by any member of this Assembly on this side of the House or the other. I know the incident that my honourable friend refers to, and I want to say to him and to this House that no one to my knowledge has used the Post Office for personal use that is not a proper use. I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that some time ago there was a couple of newspaper reports based on inaccurate. . . .

MR. ENNS: Blame the press.

MR. PAULLEY: I'm not blaming the press; I'm blaming you because you raised it in this House.

MR. ENNS: Blame the press.

MR. PAULLEY: And my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside has attempted, Mr. Chairman, tonight to cast imputations against some members of this House as a result of that story.

MR. ENNS: Shocking.

MR. PAULLEY: It is shocking. It's absolutely shocking, and if my honourable friends opposite haven't got the intestinal fortitude or if my friend from Lakeside. . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Shocking.

MR. PAULLEY: It was shocking. And I didn't expect, I didn't expect my honourable friend from Lakeside, who at one time held the position on the Treasury benches of this House, would stand up and say what he did. I don't think that he really realized -- I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that he really knew what he said.

MR. ENNS: Would the Minister permit an interjection at this point?

MR. PAULLEY: I will permit an apology if that is what my honourable friend is going to give me.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, if he would permit an interjection and interpret it as he will, I'd be prepared to make one at this time.

MR. PAULLEY: I would accept an apology and I think it should be forthcoming from my honourable friend, because we knew what he was getting at; he knew what he was getting at; and it was totally inappropriate. . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Shocking.

MR. PAULLEY: And shocking, yes. My honourable friend, my honourable friend from Roblin keeps interjecting "shocking". It certainly was but I don't think it penetrated the brain or the head of my honourable friend from Roblin at the time. Now. . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to make an apology, but, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to frame it in the following terms: that for the relatively short period of time - and I will argue with my honourable friend opposite whether that period of time will be all that much shorter as he has kept insisting in this Chamber that it will be, my demise, my political demise - but for the relatively short period of time that I was a member of the government, I can recall that it was a usual practice of the members of this House to have certain franking

(MR. ENNS cont'd.). . . . privileges. I cannot recall that during the period of time this group was on yonder side charged with the administration, that we had to ever place any restrictions as to the normal franking privileges of any members of this House. Now, Mr. Chairman, for the first time in the three years that I've been in government, as a result - and to this extent I apologize if I was in error for any imputations that I made or accusations that I've made, or implications that I've made - for the first time that I came into this Chamber last October or the last session, following the incident that we're referring to, that I was unable as a member to post my mail through the offices of this Legislature. Why? Because of the lack of discipline on that side, because of the abuse of the franking privileges of that side, they had to make a general ruling that forbade the caucuses of the Conservative Party, the caucuses of the Liberal Party, the caucus of the Social Credit Party, from using the normal usage of mail franking privileges that we as members had through all the nine years of the Progressive-Conservative administration.

Now that's fine and dandy, because these fellows couldn't trust their own members, because these fellows all of a sudden were sending mails out to all of their constituents under these franking privileges, because these fellows were abusing it this way. Now fine for the Honourable Minister to stand up now piously telling us here where, you know, he's going to read me some chapter and verse out of Matthew or what have you. Mr. Chairman, I as a member, for the first time in three years, have not been able to mail a legitimate piece of government mail out of this building other than the period when the session is on. Now my understanding is that the rule has come down now, and it's only now, it's only now because it wasn't there before; that you cannot as a member, when you come to your caucus room, dispatch some normal routine mail through the Government Services. And that, Mr. Chairman, is what I'm referring to, is what's happening as a result. . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Shocking, shocking.

MR. ENNS: They've had to cover up, Mr. Chairman. Now, Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, I know that the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services did not abuse the public service, and if he did send a mailing out to his 15,683 constituents with government mail, on government stationery, with a government envelope, that he paid for it, because he was told to pay for it after a little while.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman. . . .

MR. ENNS: This is -- so I know that there's no question, no question at all, that there has been any abuse of the public purse on that side. But, Mr. Chairman, what I want to point out to you, that it's been a result of this kind of practice that has taken away from me and all the members here in this caucus and on this side, the kind of normal privileges, day to day businesses. . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Are you sure of what you're talking about?

MR. PAULLEY: No, wait a minute.

MR. ENNS: Yes, I'm pretty sure of. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Let him hang himself. Let him hang himself; then we'll draw and quarter him.

MR. ENNS: I'm pretty sure . . . mail, because it's been that kind of a regulation or a rule that was sent out following the incident that I'm referring to.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAULLEY: I don't know where my honourable friend was before we started the session this evening. I don't know where he has been in the last three years, but he certainly hasn't been anywhere where he has been given any information insofar as franking privileges of this House are concerned, otherwise my friend would not have stood up and made such asinine statements as he has just made. He's totally ignorant of past or present procedures insofar as franking is concerned; that no member of this Assembly in all of the years that I've been here, and they're a little more than three, has had any franking privileges other than the use of postage during a session with constituents. And this was the same, Mr. Chairman, with that ineffective government that we've just got rid of as indeed it was with the Liberals that were ahead of them. And I never mentioned to my honourable friend anything at all in reference to any certain Minister, as he has now done, and he said - and I want him to read Hansard and then publicly apologize, I want him to read Hansard so that he really knows what he said, because if I recall correctly what my friend said in reference to a piece of literature

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.). . . . that was sent out by one of my colleagues, that it wasn't only until it was drawn to his attention that repayment was made. I say to my honourable friend that is not so. And I say that nobody on this side of the House, and I trust nobody on that side of the House despite the ignorant statements of my honourable friend, has ever taken the taxpayer of Manitoba for a ride. If anybody is taking the taxpayer of Manitoba for a ride, Mr. Chairman, it's the Honourable Member for Lakeside. . . .

MR. ENNS: Where am I taking. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: . . . by making such irresponsible statements as he has just made in this House and made castigations against members who are doing their utmost to serve their province and their constituents.

MR. MCKENZIE: Shocking.

MR. PAULLEY: It is shocking. Yes it is shocking, and I say to you rabble that you want to realize that it is shocking, and I say to my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside, will you do us the courtesy of reading Hansard tomorrow and then reflect on the statement that you made in respect of the use of the Post Office Department and then submit a proper apology to this House, because the apology should come to this House for such irresponsible, erroneous statements as made by the Member for Lakeside, who happens to now represent that great constituency following one of the greatest representatives that this House ever had, my old friend Doug Campbell, who would never have ever. . . .

MR. ENNS: Quit milking the. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: made such irresponsible statements as my honourable friend.

MR. ENNS: Quit milking the Liberal

MR. PAULLEY: Shocking? Yes, it is shocking.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister permit a question?

MR. PAULLEY: It is a shock to all of us and I'm sure it's a shock to all of the people of Manitoba to have such. . . .

MR. JORGENSON: Cut off. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Oh you mind your business. You sit down there until I'm finished. Mr. Chairman, I frankly confess that at the present moment it may appear that I am irate and aggravated by the statement of my honourable friend. But, Mr. Chairman, I think that it is justified that I should speak as I am at the present time following on the statements of my honourable friend. . . .

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MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister permit a question at this point? Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that what we were trying to do is to sort out the reasons for the increase of \$100,000 while the barrage went across, and I'm just wondering, maybe my honourable friend hasn't read his book and maybe I don't understand, but I was a member of this section of the department for quite a number of years. My experience in terms of postage was almost directly related, Mr. Chairman, with the activities of the Motor Vehicle Branch, and I just wonder if there might be an increase in postage as a result of the fact that we have already passed a sum of money for our friend the Minister of Transportation to send out full licence plates next year rather than the tabs, and the increase is rather substantial normally when you have either driver's licences falling due, which happens every other year, and when the full plate goes out rather than the tabs, and I just wonder if the Minister would look at his book if he wouldn't find a large part of the explanation related to licence plates.

MR. PAULLEY: I thank the former Minister of Public Works for his suggestions, and certainly when we get down to the individual item on post office I may have more detail, but I felt that this was an opportune time or the -- I had to take this occasion to reply to the remarks of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

And now, if I may, Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend the Member for Swan River made references to a few other items such as the Information Services. I'll be glad to discuss that when we get down to the estimates of the section. The increases in the appropriation for the garage - that will be done at that particular time.

But there isn't any item in the estimates for the question of the Civic Auditorium, and this matter has been raised by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and one or two others, and I think that it would be only appropriate for me at this particular time to make reference once again to the purchase of the Civic Auditorium and the uses for which we intend to put the building.

The question arises as to how the price was arrived at. I want to assure my honourable friend from Swan River and also the Member for Assiniboia, the price was arrived at after an appraisal by two or three independent groups. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I had an offer the other day of more than the million dollars that we paid for the building if we would sell it back to a group who at one time were interested. Also, Mr. Chairman, away back in 1955 there was consideration given to the development of the Civic Auditorium, and you may recall, Mr. Chairman, that at that particular time there was some consideration for developing the Civic Auditorium into use for a city hall in Winnipeg, and in 1955 this picture represents an artist's conception of what can be done to the Civic Auditorium. I am informed by competent engineers that it is possible, with the structure of the Civic Auditorium, to go upwards to the extent of about ten storeys, and that is how firm a foundation, to use the name of a hymn, that the auditorium was built on.

MR. WEIR: When does construction start?

MR. PAULLEY: Just as soon as the arrangements are made for the vacating of the space and this is the purpose of the million and a half as a starter, and I want to say, that is insofar as alterations are concerned, and I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that we know full well that a million and a half will not . . . a ten storey addition - my honourable friend the previous Minister of Public Works nods his head in assent - but it will be a start. We are cramped for space. My honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia wants to know how much rented space we are using at the present time. I haven't that information precisely but I will accommodate my honourable friend and get a documentation of it. We need space. The government needs space; and I am sure that my friend the previous Premier was well aware of this at his time. We had an opportunity of purchasing the Auditorium at what was felt a reasonable price, and we did so. As a matter of fact, my friend the Member for Swan River in his discourse drew to our attention the limitation of accommodation for the members of this Assembly. We have in this building, as all members are aware I'm sure, many square feet of valuable space being taken up by different departments that could well be moved out of here if we had other space, and that is what we intend to do progressively so that this building eventually will be used for the purpose for which it was originally constructed, the use of the legislative body in the province of Manitoba. Sure it will take time, Mr. Chairman, and sure it's going to take a few bucks, but we will do that.

My honourable friend the Member for Swan River raised the question of the court rooms and the flags and the picture of Her Majesty. I want to assure my honourable friend there has

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) been no change in policy at all. I realize that there may be one or two court rooms, or just one which at the present time the portrait of the Queen is not there. I want to thank my honourable friend. He drew it to my attention and I issued instructions that as quickly as possible the fact of there being no picture there, drawn to my attention by my friend, will be overcome.

Now then, I think I dealt with my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside a few moments ago. The Member for Assiniboia, getting back momentarily to the Auditorium, questioned as to cost. Those who have advised me as to the cost of the Auditorium indicate that the price of \$1,000,000 for the land and the building was quite within reason. The million and a half additions or renovations, when done - and I'm not suggesting that they will all be done this year - will give us additional space of about, I think it's roughly around about 50 percent of similar accommodation if we had to purchase the building on a per foot basis. This is the information that I have received.

Now he also mentioned the question of parking space out in front of the building. This is a great problem. As my honourable friend was mentioning parking space, I heard one of my friends opposite say something about well, let's go underground and build a structure underground, and at the same time criticising the government because they're making expenditures in the purchase of the Auditorium. Now I don't know how compatible this is with general thinking, but it seems on one hand we get Hades because of the fact that we do attempt to overcome some of our difficulties, and get Hades because we don't make provisions underground, but I am sure my honourable friend from Assiniboia is far more sensible than some and will appreciate the problem. It is a problem. Parking is a problem, and it is necessary, not only here but in other places as well, to go two or three times around a block before you find a parking space. However, it's something that we were cognizant of and will be prepared to take a look into it.

He mentioned also the question of the renovations going on in the buildings, and he made reference to air conditioning. May I assure my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Assiniboia, that there is no air conditioning going on in this building in any office. There has been some tapping in by ducts into an air column within the building but there is no air conditioning as such going on any more than we have here in this Assembly, and I'm not talking about the air conditioning that might be coming from my lips or my chest at the present time.

My honourable friend also mentioned the fact of alterations down at the Tourist Information complex down in the main lobby. There is no intention of moving the Tourist Information Bureau out of the area at the present time.

The question of space rentals, I indicated to my honourable friend I will attempt to get all of this information, and I want to say to my honourable friend there is no intention of purchasing the Great West Life building by the government at this time. I think, Mr. Chairman -- oh yes, my colleague just drew to my attention that the Minister of Transportation has an air conditioner in his office but it was there before we took office. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I confess that there's some sort of an air conditioner that doesn't work very effectively in the office of the Minister of Labour that was there before, but there is no changing being done insofar as the air conditioning in the building.

Now -- (Interjection) -- that's right. Oh yes, Oh yes. The air may be hot but it's factual. The other question, I believe, raised by the Member for Assiniboia was the question of the increase in the assessments for Workmen's Compensation, and it really isn't a valid comparison between the \$90,000 of a year ago and \$136,000 now, because the \$90,000 contained in the estimates of last year did not reflect the increases that were passed by the House at the fall session for widows and their children and orphaned children, and so we had to pass a special appropriation by Lieutenant-Governor's warrant following the last session to make repayment, and I believe at that time it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$40,000 or \$50,000 by special warrant and that's now reflected in the increased amount for Workmen's Compensation assessment, and that's the explanation on that.

My honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition drew to our attention the question of the marginal notes on the statutes of the explanations. I am sure my honourable friend the Leader of the Official Opposition is aware that this has been an ongoing practice over the last few years. It had been deemed advisable to curtail the interpretations because in a number of instances it appeared that the interpretations, the marginal notes, were giving information that was not actually applicable to the statutes. I think, Mr. Chairman, that answers most of the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): It's okay. I'll follow him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, it is immaterial to me whether the honourable member spoke first or not. I certainly wouldn't have any objection. I note that we have some increase in the Department's figures as far as total expenditure is concerned. What is it, about \$1.3 million? But then when you check the Public Accounts there is such a rearrangement, so much difference, that it's hard to check with the previous year's as to where you are at. I find difficulty reconciling the operations of the previous government with the present estimates. Once in awhile I try and check these things out just to find out just what these various items contain and for what the money is being spent. I wasn't sure whether the Minister, when he said — whether the Textbook Bureau came under his jurisdiction or not. It was the Purchasing Bureau?

MR. PAULLEY: It is not under the Purchasing Bureau. It's under the Department of Education.

MR. FROESE: I see. Because I think the government should think twice before setting up more businesses in government. I feel that on numerous occasions it's not warranted. The amount of profit that these agencies show doesn't warrant going into this type of business. I note, for instance, that the Textbook Bureau in 1969 they had, what was it? a profit of 2.2 percent, the year before it was 1.6. It's very marginal, and if the government intends to go into further agencies whether it's just for their own purchases it might be different. — (Interjection) — Well, the Education Minister mentioned the buying of buses for all the various divisions in the province. I'm not just sure when the Minister says that the Purchasing Bureau, just to what extent; how far are we going. Are we going to buy for all the Crown agencies? Is it just for government business or are the Crown agencies included?

MR. PAULLEY: If I may, Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend will permit me — what I said was that we do not make purchases for the government textbooks or for the schools for such things as buses or for the Crown corporations, but we are at the present time making an assessment in the over-all policies of purchasing to see whether or not it may be advisable and more economical to bring under one agency purchasing for the Crown corporations and the schools in order that we might as a result, as I say, of bulk purchasing, get a better deal; but at the present time the Purchasing Department only, purchases for normal government services.

MR. FROESE: Well I think this is some clarification but even if they are considering now to expand that service, I think they should make very sure that we are not embarking on something large that might not turn out to be so good after all.

Does Hansard come under his department? I am not so sure. If it does, I would like to know the number of subscriptions that are out at the present time, whether we are increasing the number or whether it is being decreased or not, and to what extent we are subsidizing it, if we are at all.

The matter of Civil Service Superannuation is in the estimates. There is an increase. The Minister mentioned that it was not debatable as far as the statutory part but I think any increases certainly are debatable because they are not yet statute, and therefore if increases are being considered I would like to know from the Minister just what is being considered in the way of increases at this time, because I don't think it is necessary to wait for the legislation when we are discussing the actual expenditure under estimates, so if you could enlighten us on this matter I would be happy to know.

The garage is still being operated. Is there a special accounting in the Public Accounts of the garage itself? I haven't checked it out; I'll look into that further. Other than that, I might just mention as far as the banking services that have been mentioned here tonight, I certainly have not used it to any large extent and I am sure that I have not abused it in any way and I have been satisfied with the practices that we have been following over the years. I don't see any need why it had to be changed unless there were infractions, and if there were infractions I would like to know just how much was involved, how much money was being paid and how much was the government being reimbursed for it. I think this would be satisfactory to me. Other than that, for the time being I don't intend to go into any of the matters under the Minister's — well we haven't got the Minister's salary — under these estimates, so I guess we should really be discussing these items by item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to check with the Minister if I understood correctly that he is planning on an increase in the Civil Service pensions for previously retired civil servants who have been on low pensions. Is that definitely the case?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I indicated to my honourable friend the Member for Swan River that I hope before the session ends to bring in changes in legislation that will provide for that and I trust that my honourable friends would be reasonably receptive to those changes. Now if I may at this particular time, because the Honourable Member for Rhineland raised the point as to the consideration under the section dealing with the civil service superannuation. It has some part to do with possible increases but it also has to deal with the amount, percentage-wise, of contribution of the employees, there are a number of more employees, and it's based on increases in salaries as well. So that is what is reflected in the item for superannuation, more even than what in due course will be revealed to the House in respect of increases in civil service pensions.

MR. MOLGAT: For people who have been retired for some time and been on low pensions?

MR. PAULLEY: Right.

MR. MOLGAT: Fine. Because my honourable friend and I have discussed this in previous years. He and I were in agreement at that time as to what ought to be done. At the last session I was going to bring the matter up but because the government had only been in power for a short time I did not. If now it is going to be done I will hold my comments until we get the Act or the proposed bill.

MR. PAULLEY: I think I can at least, Mr. Chairman, give assurance to my honourable friend that there will be some adjustment. He may not be satisfied; I may not be satisfied with the extent of it, but I want to assure my honourable friend steps are being taken in this regard and that they're not definitely reflected in the item under Superannuation Fund at the present time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 42 (1) (a).

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed the lively discussion between my friend the Member for Lakeside and the Minister about the uses and the possible abuses of the Post Office and free mailings. But seriously though, as a member of the Committee of the House on the Rules and Orders and Forms and Proceedings Committee we made a recommendation that an outside body consider all aspects of a member's duties. This would include, I presume, mailing privileges, travelling around his constituency and the expenses thereof and matters such as that. But it's possible that there may not be any action taken this session. There may be but then again there may not.

In view of the fact there are about 32 new members in this House over the past 14 months, counting the February 20th by-election, and I know I've had a member of a party other than my own come to me and ask me with some hesitancy and some doubt about what he should be able to do and what he should not be able to do, I think that there should be some guidelines laid down in the interval while we're waiting for this outside body to make recommendations and while we're waiting for the government to act on recommendations. I know in the past - well myself and my colleagues now are fairly experienced members in the House, we've been here anywhere from eight to fifteen years, from time to time we discuss amongst ourselves what we should be able to do and what we should not do acting in good conscience. So I think that while there was a hint of bitterness and some political overtones in the speeches made tonight I think we should spell out to one another what could be expected in this regard.

I agree with the Member for Lakeside that in the past a member has had reasonable use of franking privileges. Well if he didn't -- I notice one of the Ministers nodding his head -- perhaps he's saying that in between sessions a member did not have any mailing privileges. Well if that's the case then I stand before you as guilty because I've mailed out the occasional letter when I've been in here on constituency business between sessions. I think that all members should be able to know exactly where they stand. I don't intend to blame or castigate anyone, but I was rather surprised to see a piece of literature come out, which I presume came from almost every member of the New Democratic Party, and it's called "A Report from the Legislature." There's no date on it, just says "Fall '69". I might say it's a very good pamphlet and very informative, but I wonder about the propriety of using the official Manitoba emblem on it. Now if this is fair for all to use well that's fine, but no one knows. I don't know. I'm sure the members that mailed it out weren't too sure.

MR. PAULLEY: As long as we didn't pay for the mailing of it . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I agree with that but by a news story some months ago there was the question that someone had used mailing privileges from the building. I understand that there was a mix-up and later on he reimbursed the post office. But I have another piece of literature that I think was, well it was mailed out this session. It looks like a copy of an ordinary piece of legislative stationery and I have high regard for the member who mailed it but I certainly wonder about the last paragraph on it where it says, and I quote -- this is sent out by the Member for The Pas and he's explaining to his constituents in Fairford, Little Saskatchewan, Lake St. Martin and Dauphin River what the road program for the coming year means in his constituency, and I see nothing wrong with that, I see nothing wrong with that at all. But the last paragraph makes me wonder, and I'm going to read it onto the record: "I hope that you are pleased with these announcements and will realize that Ron McByrde and New Democratic Party are working hard on your behalf." Well this is fine. But if this was mailed out on government stationery, if it was mailed out through the caucus room, if this is proper well then every member is free to take off the gloves and start sending out political announcements, political messages, and give his own interpretation. Is that a fair assessment? Is this fair?

MR. ENNS: Keep on going, Gordon, I'm ready to apologize pretty soon. I'm getting ready to apologize.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: No, I think this is something that should come out in the open; that every member would like to know where the hell he stands when it comes to using the mails. I think the Minister responsible for Government Services, the post office comes under his department, I think he should give what his ideas of guidelines are for this. And if there's agreement or disagreement now's the time to have it out instead of walking away from this and wondering if somebody's getting away with something or someone else should be entitled to do something that they're not sure about. I'd like to hear the Minister's views on this.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's view -- I appreciate the point raised by my honourable friend, the House Leader of the Liberal Party, and certainly I've no objections at all to an endeavour to issue sort of guidelines insofar as the use of mailing privileges are concerned. I agree with him that, at least as far as I'm aware, there haven't been any real instructions but it has been an understood fact as far as I'm aware over the years that -- and I mentioned this earlier this evening -- that insofar as mailing privileges are concerned for the normal conduct of mailing privileges between a representative of the Legislature and his constituents that it's done; but not mass mailings. Now my honourable friend -- even during a session -- my honourable friend there read from a piece of paper with our normal stationery; we're all supplied with stationery during the session and I'm sure my honourable friend recalls that on the day when we prorogue or just before the present Sergeant-at-Arms who is the custodian of the stationery gave to each member a tablet of stationery and a few envelopes so that they could have them for their use after sessions; there's been no restriction. But as far as I'm aware, as far as I'm aware, the Post Office would not accept mass mailings at any time, that is two or three hundred or a thousand pamphlets or letters. This hasn't been the practice. Now I would say, Mr. Chairman, that if it appears as though this is becoming sort of a practice -- and I must confess that I'm not aware of it and it hasn't been drawn to my attention -- other than those that sometimes go through the metering machine and they pay for it themselves and are billed by the Post Office for it, I want to say to my friend I appreciate his remarks that maybe, and particularly in view of the fact that there have been these changes in personnel, that it would be a good idea to sort of document what have been the practices and what are conceived to be the present practices. I appreciate too, and I was on the same committee with my honourable friend on rules of the House and this matter was discussed as to whether franking privileges would be extended and how and all the likes of that. And of course the House in due course will take these matters under consideration.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that there is no provision contained in the estimates before us at the present time for any broadening of the normal mailing privileges that the members of the House have had in the past. And my friend then showed us a document there with the coat of arms of Manitoba on it, "The Report from the Legislature." I don't see that there's any violation there, it certainly wasn't printed on government stationery and I believe that the emblem can be used by a member of the Legislature even in his reports from the Legislature. So I don't think there's any real difficulty. But I do say, Mr. Chairman, to my honourable

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) friend I appreciate particularly the point that really nobody knows or have been informed as to their rights or privileges. We have discussed this in the rules committee and possibly eventually we will have some clearcut statement, but I will undertake, I will undertake, I will undertake, Mr. Chairman, to try and document some general guidelines as suggested by my friend. I think that his contribution has been a pretty reasonable one.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister a question? Would the Minister permit me to bring my constituency mail from Roblin and post it through the metering service in the building?

MR. PAULLEY: If my honourable friend while the House is in session desires to communicate with his constituents he will have exactly the same privileges as normally have been accepted by the responsible members of the House.

MR. McKENZIE: I thank the Minister for his information. I don't deny that privilege, I've always had it. But I'm talking once the session is over.

MR. PAULLEY: It has not been the normal practice.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 43. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, since the honourable members will be reading the record tomorrow, I'd like to make these few comments on what was said a while ago because I was personally attacked.

I'd like to mention first of all that I have not 15,600 constituents. I wish I had but I haven't. And I haven't sent that many pamphlets to my constituents. I have just a shade over 8,000 constituents. I can get you the exact number tomorrow. I did send 4,000 pamphlets to my constituents and I'd like to say this on the record, before I did so I purchased them from our party, I paid for them, and I asked my secretary exactly what the procedure was because I didn't know at that time and the session was not on. I asked my secretary to call the Department of Government Services and see what the practice was and if I was to be billed for them that they do so, and this is exactly what they did. After I sent them out the Free Press put out an article making a comment about me using the government mails to my advantage and this was far from being true. I denied it and they corrected it a few days later. I was billed for 4,000 and this is exactly what I paid. I paid \$200.00 to the government for the 4,000 that I sent out. I ordered 5,000 pamphlets from provincial office; I still have 1,000 in my possession, I can show them to you, I can have you count them if you like. This is exactly what I was charged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolutions No. 42 to 43 (2)(d) were read and passed.) The Official Leader of the Conservative Party.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, on this one does the government anticipate an increase in the size of the government fleet, is this the reason for the increase of \$150,000.00?

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . 44? — 43.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, under normal circumstances the item is recoverable from other appropriations through mileage charges with the exception of the purchase of new automobiles, not the replacement of old automobiles and I'm just wondering if the policy has changed or whether the government is anticipating an increase in the size of the fleet or whether there's another explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . 44.

MR. WEIR: I'm dealing with 44.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well we're not quite on that. Resolution 43 (d) -- passed, Resolution . . . The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Just what improvements on grounds are we talking of in this motion?

MR. PAULLEY: That was on (2) (b) was it, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, resolution 43 (2) (d). Improvements to Grounds.

MR. PAULLEY: Let's have a look at it. This, Mr. Chairman, includes a whole myriad of costs for different buildings. The expenses for upkeep and repairs to some degree have increased but nothing unusual. No special improvements. There are one or two items I could point out to my honourable friend, and I haven't got the details before me at the present time. For instance, in the Norquay Building there is an increase from about \$36,000 to \$179,000. I haven't got the particular reason for the increase but I can obtain it for my honourable friend. There are decreases in some areas and increases in the others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, on this item, I found out a few weeks ago that Assiniboine Street between Kennedy and Osborne is the property of the province, and if this is true this is about the worst street in the Greater Winnipeg area that I have ever seen. I've been coming in this building for eleven years and it's a wonder -- the Minister of Transportation, I hope that he will take this into consideration. He was talking about people getting killed up north. If this is the case somebody is going to get killed out here. -- (Interjection) -- Oh yes, it's worse than Des Meurons. Metro is doing a good job out there. The problem? Come with me after tonight for ten minutes and I'll show you the problem is this street, Assiniboine between Kennedy and Osborne; it's a mess, but give the Minister that is presenting his estimates now a little money and I think that we will be able to do something. Now I wonder if the Minister would answer that. Well we have the two of you here. The Minister told me that this was his street, that it was the street between Kennedy and Osborne that it was the grounds, it was the property of the Provincial Government, and I do hope that something is done. I'm not talking about a couple of shovelsful of tar; I'm talking about a good job for a change because it's been a mess and every year it's the same.

MR. PAULLEY: I'll talk to my friend the Minister of Highways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 43 (d) -- passed; 43--passed. Resolution 44. 3. (a) -- passed . . .

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister want me to repeat my question or is he prepared to answer on the basis of having given it on the previous item?

MR. PAULLEY: No, there hasn't been to my knowledge any appreciable increase in the number of cars in the fleet. I think there is provision for purchase of somewhere around 80 or 90. I'll get the information for my honourable friend if that would be satisfactory to him, but there has been no change specifically, there hasn't been any change.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Chairman, that would be satisfactory for me to get the information if my understanding of the policy is right, does this explain the increase of \$150,000. Then I'd be prepared -- if it does, then I'd be prepared to wait for the information.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. But there hasn't been any change in the direct policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 44, 3 (a) -- passed. The Official Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, we are now talking about the Provincial Land Acquisition Branch and if my memory serves me correctly the First Minister, when he was a former MLA before he came back to provincial politics, used to have a good deal to say about this and he used to have a great many problems in his own constituency, and I can say that what he was saying then applies now, and I agree with him wholeheartedly that there should be some drastic changes in the method in which the Provincial Government acquires land. I have made this point time and again. I have spoken about it . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the honourable member dealing with Resolution 44 on the Provincial Garage or is he dealing with Resolution 45?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I'm sorry. I was speaking on 45.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Perhaps you could hold your comment then.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 44, 3 (a) -- passed; (b) -- passed; (c) -- passed; Resolution 44 -- passed. Resolution 45.

MR. GREEN: Does the honourable member wish to proceed now, or do you think it would be a good time to have the Committee rise? I move the Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee has considered certain resolutions, requests me to report progress and begs leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 10 o'clock.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have a moment to make one short announcement. It is the intention of the House to have the Committee on Law Amendments meet at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the reason being to facilitate, if it's possible, the passage of the bill presented by the Honourable Member for St. Vital; so there being no other

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) notice of Law Amendments Committee except the notice that the members will receive, if there are members who are aware of any members of the public who wish to make representation regarding this particular bill, then it would be well for them to notify them that it will take place on Wednesday at 10 o'clock in Room 254, and any other information that could be disseminated through the media would be appreciated so that the public could know about this particular meeting.

MR. BILTON: . . . that there will be other bills as well as that one?

MR. GREEN: Well, there is one, I think, bill that was presented by the Minister of Agriculture with regard to credit unions which we won't proceed with unless it is the will of the committee, but there is the bill of the Member for St. Vital which is rather urgent in relation to certain future proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 10 o'clock. The House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon.